Newspapers.com by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/813601402

The Minneapolis Times (Minneapolis, Minnesota) · Sat, May 20, 1899 · Page 20

Downloaded on Feb 18, 2023

Red Lake Falls and Its Advantages

From a Staff Correspondent.

Red Lake Falls, Minn., May 18.—Situated forty miles east of Grand Forks, N. D., at the junction of the Red Lake and Clear Water rivers, in the thriving little town of Red Lake Falls. After a journey from the south over either the Northern Pacific or Great Northern lines, which are the only railroads here, and which run on due way from the north, nothing can be more delightful than to come upon the beautifully wooded banks of the Red Lake river, where lies the city, so appropriately named—Red Lake Falls. Just here the Red Lake river as well as its tributary, the Clear Water river, encounters the first stretch of rugged and varied country and in consequence the water tumbles over rough and rocky beds, which form from 12 to 20 miles of natural falls or rapids. As a result there are twelve distinct water powers within easy access to the town, and although manufacturing is still in its infancy, a better field for the establishment of factories could not be found.

The growing agricultural interests in the vast and fertile country tributary to Red Lake warrants the establishment of manufacturing industries, so do the great lumbering operations to the north along the river and about the great Red Lake. In fact the town has an unrivaled location, possessing natural advantages unsurpassed by any other town in the great northwestern portion of Minnesota.

The town is beautifully situated on a thirteen sixteen, always high and dry, which makes fevers and other diseases prevalent in lower localities—are unknown. A better health resort or better spot a summer's outing cannot be found. The fish, game and deer, abundant in the woods, bring sportsmen here from all parts of the country. Those who love to hear the woods, prairie chickens, grouse, geese and ducks which swarm on the prairies sloughs of the river and lakes of north land.

Good Farming Country.

The land around Red Lake Falls produces wheat after the finest drop wheat in the world, sometimes averaging fifty bushels to the acre, and 100 bushels, and oats to five hundred bushels of potatoes to the acre. Flax is a very profitable crop, and yields as never known here. Large quantities of barley are being shipped and every year. A better barley for a malt factory could not be found.

Red Lake Falls is the county seat of Red Lake county, and has a population of 1,500 to 2,000.

The local trade is good, as evidenced by the number of general merchandise stores, the best at least, on of good size. There are grocery, candy and fruit stores, two enterprising and well-edited newspapers, hardware, jewelry and drug stores, three feed mills, a carding mill, a smith, blacksmith shops and farm machinery buildings. The town has two Catholic churches and one Presbyterian church, the majority of the inhabitants being descendants of the French colonies in Canada. There is an organized band here, too, and an opera-house.

The opera-house, by the way, was built by the public-spirited citizens, and its affairs are operated as a stock company. The seating capacity is 1,500.

The flour manufacturing industry, although the mills here have a total capacity of at least a thousand barrels daily, is yet in its infancy.

The citizens are aware of this fact, and new enterprises will receive from them a cordial welcome. Pulp and paper mills are made feasible by the presence of immense growths of poplar along the water-courses. There is straw in abundance for paper-board factories, a barrel factory is needed, and creameries, woolen mills, etc., would also find an encouraging field in this new county. Indeed, anyone seeking a home or with capital to invest, can do no better than to visit the Red Lake river valley.

Citizens Are Public-Spirited.

The town is exceptionally blessed with public-spirited citizens. This is shown in the open handed and enthusiastic way in which the establishment of new industries is being courted. Any manufacturing concern seeking a desirable location will receive the liberal assistance from the citizens. Persons desiring to make an outlay of capital will be met half way—a power site will be furnished and, in case the enterprise warrants it, something even more in the way of inducement might be offered.

The Red Lake Falls Lumber company's mill accepted of the following bona fide offer made by the city in the year 1898:

"This sawmill site, the lowest estimated value of which is $10,000, the village of Red Lake Falls offers to give free to the right parties who will build and operate a suitable sawmill for this valuable location. They are anxious to add a sawmill to their already numerous industries, which now aggregate nearly eighty, and which they feel sure will reach the 100 mark by 1897."

Possession was taken and the mill is now in operation, turning out quantities of manufactured lumber, each

Lumber Interests.

Nature has bestowed her gifts most lavishly upon this location. The very forest which spreads its green mantle for hundreds of square miles about the town of Red Lake, stands as the heraldry of the natural good fortune. The tremendous foot of pine contained in this forest is destined to be largely sawed into lumber at this point, and for various reasons. First, it is a well known fact that Red Lake Falls furnishes the very choicest location available anywhere this pine is to be manufactured into lumber.

In the way of banks Red Lake Falls is most happily endowed. In addition to the First Bank, two new banking concerns have been organized and started within the past month. One is a private bank and the other a state bank.

In real estate circles the outlook at the present time is most bright. Since the first of the year 1899, fifteen new business blocks have been erected, and the principal streets of the city—rapid growth has taken place in the building of residences and homes. Such is the rapidity of the growth in this line that the inhabitants say each morning a new house has sprung up during the night. At the present time the town is in an over-crowded condition, more people having come in since the opening of spring than there are houses for them. Hence the building.

At present choice lots in the business portion can be bought for from $100 to $200. Choice residence property near the business portion can be had for $50. Cultivated lands near the city command from $20 to $50 an acre, and wild lands lying further from market centers being $8 to $10 an acre. These latter are easily worked, however, no clearing being necessary. As they lie they are ready for the plow.

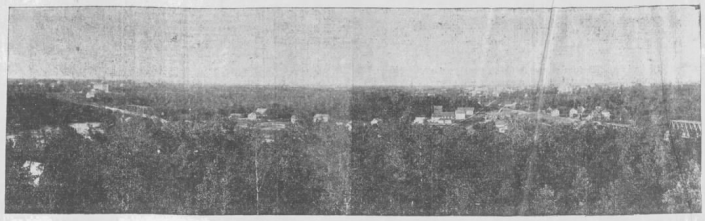
On Dec. 26, 1896, the county of Red Lake was detached from Polk and the city of Red Lake Falls became its county seat. This was accomplished after years of fighting. Now large portions of this section are open for settlement and farms are being rapidly taken up.

Some Early History.

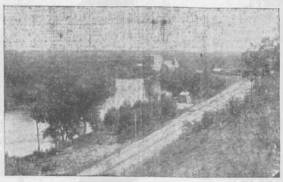
The following is the history of the city of Red Lake Falls in a nutshell:

The first persons to arrive at Red Lake Falls was Pierre Bottineau, Wm. Bottineau, Ellie Cyr and Joe Cyr. They came by team from Minneapolis, and reached this point May 2, 1876. There was no Red Lake Falls then, but Pierre Bottineau picked out a homestead on the banks of the beautiful Clearwater river for himself, and all around him he planned to locate his friends of French Canadian extraction, and the name Red Lake Falls or Bottineau colony, was given by Pierre Bottineau. The next summer Ernest Bone came along and platted his original township and after that Mr. Bottineau had his farm surveyed into town lots. Red Lake Falls was not incorporated as a village until 1891. The first railroad the town was built into bore the name of The Great Northern built in 1892. Red Lake Falls started to incorporate as a city March 7, 1897.

Ernest Bone, the pioneer settler, says: "I was the first settler in Pennington Falls, but that was far and without the natural resources of Red Lake Falls. I came here over a year ago exploring expedition and landed here where stayed, and still exists, what in my estimation a city must have—natural advantages. I have seen the town grow. The trouble so far has been that those having money here did not themselves realize what we need in order to reach out in all directions for capital. Now this spirit is growing and soon come to our city. The situation in regard to the future of the town hinges upon its railroad connections. As it stands they are undoubtedly poor. When direct communication is obtained R. will bring investors with capital to look at the country, and that's all we need. It one time a direct line from Duluth to Winnipeg, passing through this city was surveyed and work started. It fell through, however, and now we can only hope for a more direct railway route. Anyway, whether or not such only a matter of conjecture, our resources are unsurpassed, our advantages are plain, and with good demand



BIRD S EYE VIEW OF RED LAKE FALLS AND TRIBUTARY COUNTRY. PHOTO BY RIECHET.



A FLOURING MILL ON THE RED LAKE RIVER.

ONE OF THE MANY FALLS ON CLEARWATER RIVER AT THE CITY OF RED LAKE FALLS.

Copyright © 2023 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.